

January 9, 1974
Wednesday

Dear Jim:

The reason that you are having the strange experience of receiving a letter from me is twofold. 1. Helen has been semi-down with a bad cold, her conscience is bothering her because she hasn't written to Jimmy, and she has appointed me as substitute correspondent; and 2. I am now one of that newsworthy group known as the elderly retired. Actually I hope that that will be semi-retired. I have an agreement with Phil Stewart to receive a small monthly retainer for which I will owe him $2\frac{1}{2}$ days work a month, and I am still working on getting some computer programming to do. If that doesn't work out in a month or two, I will try to get some engineering work to do.

We have had some of Helen's "bitter cold" weather here. It was 21 above here this morning, but the sun is shining, and it is beautiful outside. Helen talked to Florence the other evening, and it was 36 below in Minneapolis, with a wind blowing. That is what I call "bitter cold".. Helen wants me to be sure to tell you that she saw the comet Kahoutec(?) the other evening. Our neighbor in Bob Carlson's old house had seen it for several evenings in a row and called Helen when it was visible. Our trees block the view, so Helen went down to the 28th St. corner with our binoculars, and saw it clearly. Since then, our neighbor says that it has become too faint to see.

Mary and Mike are still camping in a motel in Olympia for another month or so. I understand that then Mike will have completed his temporary work for the State Employees' Union and Mary will quit her job, and they will return to their apartment in Seattle. Mike has a \$1,000.00 a month retainer from Brock Adams to represent him at evening political affairs, and in addition he expects to accept another job. He says that he has several opportunities. Perhaps I told you that Mike received more votes, in his recent try, in Brock Adams district than Adams did when he was last re-elected. This of course amazed Adams and he contacted Mike to discuss that, and resulted in the retainer. Give my love to my darling daughter-in law, and we hope to hear from you soon.

Love
Bob